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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 49% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 72,568 | Nifty 21,894 | Gold 62,390 | Silver 72,573 | Dollar 82.87 | Euro 90.87 | GBP 105.67

Bengaluru to be one of the first cities in the country to recruit transgender males to police dept

THE TRANSFORMERS

Activists flag 'internal harassment and lack of awareness'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Taking a step towards inclusiveness of queer community in the police force, Bengaluru will be one of the first cities in the country to actively recruit transgender males to the police department. On January 11, Bengaluru city police released a statement which said the department shall fill 3,064 posts, and any 'Male/Third Gender Male' can apply if they meet the eligibility.

In 2022, the Karnataka government announced it is reserving posts for transgender people in police forces, the first state to do so.

The then home minister had said that out of the 3,484 constable posts, 79 were reserved for trans people to apply. Transgender rights activists said they welcome the step, but expressed their scepticism citing chances of internal harassment and lack of awareness among the police personnel.

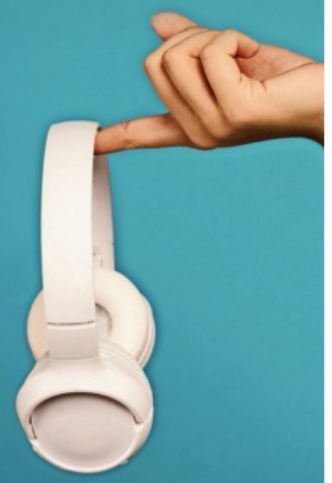
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

KAROLLYNE VIDEIRA HUBERT/UNSPLASH

"If they get proper representation in mainstream jobs... people would see them in a different light — Uma, trans woman, Jeeva

Unsound scapes

December noise surpasses previous year's decibel values



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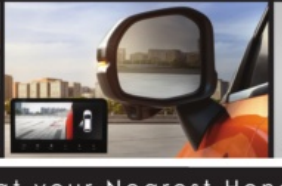

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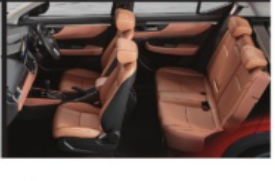

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Arts & crafts

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is back in town with the latest collection of artistic goodies. The exhibition-cum sale has been organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. You can explore a range of handicrafts, including Odisha tie and dye, handlooms, jewellery, carpets, jutis, marble crafts, Odisha Pattachitra painting, Madhubani paintings, and more.
Where: Banashankari Mahila Samaja, 45, 30th Main, near South Indian Bank, opp D-Mart Devegowda Petrol Pump, Banashankari 3rd Stage
When: until January 20; 10am to 9 pm

02 Action replay

Tahatto presents the 5th edition of 'Enter Stage Right', a workshop designed to give participants insights into the critical aspects of theatre. Don't miss the chance to tap into your creativity, learn, and apply it in the form of a final performance at the end of the workshop.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar;
When: until January 21; 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

03 Notes & beats

Get ready to celebrate harmony through the arts as the AIM presents Bengaluru International Arts Festival, Sankranthi Sambhrama. The event features various artists such as Dr Suma Subhindra, VK Raman, BC Manjunath, Kartik Mani, Ned McGowan, Lydie Thonnard, Gilles Carlier, and Laurent Peckels. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: Today; 6 pm**

Sankrathi get-together

Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror dealers participated at a get together celebration on the occasion of Makar Sankranthi Utsav at Vijay Karnataka office on Friday

Set for Sankranthi celebration
Women busy with last-minute shopping for Sankranthi festivities at Jayanagar, on Saturday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

No quiet spot in city, for crying out loud

Noise levels in various areas of city exceed decibel levels recorded last year; BTM Layout and NIMHANS area under silent zone category turn out too noisy

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As per Central Pollution Control Board's specifications, the acceptable noise level (dB) in a silent zone during the day is 50 dB and during the night is 40 dB

There was noise overload in Bengaluru as the city celebrated a relatively noisier New Year's Eve this year than in 2022. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) noise pollution data for December shows that the noise levels in many parts of the city surpassed last year's decibel values. Out of all silent zones and residential areas with KSPCB's noise pollution monitoring stations, while Mysore Road breached the safe limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) by the highest margin, it was BTM Layout in the residential category and NIMHANS area under the silent zone category that turned out to be more clamorous compared with last year.

The night-time average monthly decibel values recorded near NIMHANS (a silent zone) and BTM Layout (residential area) were 53.3 dB and 63.1 dB, respectively. Last year, these areas recorded 48.9 dB and 58.4 dB.

Bangalore Mirror
It's somewhat quiet, but not quite enough
Despite continual decrease in noise levels on Mysore Road and around NIMHANS, decibel levels persist above permissible limits, reveals data

BM has been tracking the decibel levels in the city, and there has been no respite

As per CPCB's specifications, the acceptable noise level (dB) in a silent zone during the day is 50 dB and during the night is 40 dB. In the case of residential areas, the permissible sound limits are 55 dB for the day and 45 dB during the night.

On Mysore Road, the monthly average noise pollution level breached the safe limit by nearly 59%. According to KSPCB officials, the station located on Mysore Road has been invading the safe limit for various reasons.

"We are closely monitoring the area for high noise pollution levels and are in regular touch with authorities at RVCE College. A higher noise level is mostly due to construction and other activities by the college. The New Year celebration might have contributed to this. However, based on noise pollution data from before, we have requested that the college authorities stop nighttime construction activities and student programs. RVCE metro station also has a role to play, as vehicles passing under the station would honk and the sound would reverberate," said a KSPCB official.

> **"We are closely monitoring the area for high noise pollution levels and are in regular touch with authorities at RVCE College**
> – KSPCB official

RVCE authorities have coordinated with traffic police and conducted multiple awareness programmes for motorists. The decibel values might be higher than last year's monthly average, but overall, they have reduced with time, they added.

KSPCB has ten noise monitoring stations across the city under various categories, including silence zones and residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Monitoring stations record the noise level in decibels (dB) originating from vehicular traffic, civil works, and industry.

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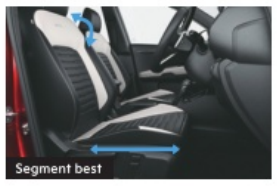

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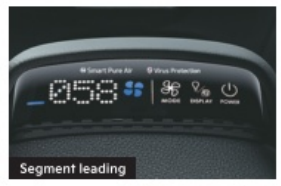

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INNOCEAN-001/24

Real-time traffic solutions for B'luru

ASTraM's data-driven insights, ambulance tracking app, and drone surveillance mark a high-tech chapter in city's battle against traffic gridlock

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With Bengaluru gaining notoriety for frequent traffic jams, city police have decided to use technology to provide solutions to the traffic woes. The latest 'weapon' in the offing is Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management (ASTraM).

A senior police official said, "ASTraM is a smart traffic engine which provides holistic insights on road traffic scenarios for Bengaluru. The main purpose is to provide situational awareness to make data-driven decisions for effective traffic management. This includes congestion alerts, incident reporting using BOT (mobile application), special event management, dashboard analytics, etc."

With the advent of apps, it is time for real-time updates. Hence, this initiative intends to provide real-time alerts on congestion to jurisdictional traffic officials every 15 minutes.

Bangalore Mirror
Ambulances to get the green signal

BM's report on Jan 11 about BTP launching an ambulance tracking application

Bengaluru's escalating traffic issues are set to receive a technologically advanced remedy

"This is integrated with our e-attendance system so that alerts are sent to the junction jockeys and sector officers. Another purpose of this alert is to provide updates on congestion to various stakeholders for better traffic planning and management," the official added.

Joint Commissioner of Police MN Anucheth in a note said, "This initiative intends to provide actionable intelligence regarding the Traffic Condition, Road Safety and Enforcement. The main purpose is to tabulate the volume and quantum of traffic in terms of congestion length, vehicle count, vehicle type, etc., so that data-driven decisions are taken for effective traffic management. Using the analytics, we also intend to do traffic congestion prediction so that any deviation from the regular volume can be handled in a better way by gearing up ourselves and disseminating information to the various stakeholders. This keeps track of historic data which enables a comparative analysis with the real-time traffic."

The police will also begin incident reporting using BOT. "The purpose of this BOT service is to report any field incident from the authorised sources so that corresponding information is shared with the map services, which provides the public with real-time information. Based on this reporting, Bangalore Traffic Police's (BTP) Traffic Management Center (TMC) monitors the on-field traffic situation for resolving the same in coordination with jurisdictional traffic officials and other stakeholders. We are also starting special event management. This feature keeps a log of all major events in the city and gives a spatial understanding of the traffic situation for better response management in terms of allocating resources and planning other alternative measures. Such events are continuously monitored centrally from TMC so that required information is disseminated for quick action," he said.

As reported by Bangalore Mirror earlier, police are launching an ambulance tracking application. "This initiative is taken to provide better-coordinated movement for the ambulances across the city. The control room would monitor the movement of the registered ambulance from the source to the destination. This application would alert the control room whenever an ambulance gets stuck for more than 120 seconds in traffic. The shortest possible route and traffic situation would be communicated to the driver through this app. This app also includes an SOS button for the drivers to get immediate intervention."

As road cameras increase, BTP deploys 10 drones for citywide aerial traffic monitoring during morning and evening peak hours, enhancing surveillance, he said.

Smart City sidewalk takes a not-so-smart turn!

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The footpath on Miller's Road Extension, built under Smart City Mission and opened to the public nearly a year ago, is in shambles. Bangalore Mirror had reported an encroachment of a nearly 150-meter walkway on the stretch nearly a month ago. Post that, while encroachment of the footpath from debris such as excavated soil, gravel, and bricks has been cleared, the walkway is obliterated.

Locals say, there is no footpath to walk anymore.

"It has hardly been a year since Smart City work was completed, but the concept of Smart City roads based on a pedestrian-first approach has been tossed out. After months of inconvenience due to encroachment, while the debris was cleared three weeks ago, the smart city pavement built for the public is destroyed," said a resident of the area.

Interestingly, this portion of the walkway was blocked by construction debris from a nearby building under construction. Locals alleged that the pavement was earlier covered by excavated soil piles, cement blocks, stone sheets, and rubble, shrinking the space to zero for pedestrians.

Bangalore Mirror
Miller's Road footpath in a 'concrete' jungle mess

BM's report on Dec 27, 2023 about the deteriorating pavement conditions on Miller's Road

"The pavement was in this state since November last year. To add to the inconvenience, the encroached portion had also become a hub of illegal activities and was being used as an open urinal. After the issue was highlighted to the local MLA, while encroachment was cleared, there is no footpath left for pedestrians to use," said another resident.

"There are many other issues plaguing the stretch done by Bengaluru Smart City Ltd (BSCL), however, this is like a sore to the eye. There has not been any attempt by authorities to fix the pavement so far," lamented Susan P, another resident of the area.

Officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), said that since the defect-liability period of BSCL is still not over, any maintenance issue on BSCL road is not BBMP's responsibility. They informed BM that none of the Smart City roads have been handed over to BBMP so far.

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Blocked walkway
Magrath Road

The pedestrian walkway near the front gate of Hosmat Hospital is blocked, posing a significant risk to pedestrians.

Commuter risk
Kogilu

The Kempegowda International Road between Kogilu Cross and Yelahanka Old Town experiences safety issues. This bustling road lacks proper footpaths, putting elders, women, and children at risk during their commute.

Sidewalk squeeze
Lavelle Road

Pedestrians encounter obstacles as bikes parked on the pavement near Biere Club compel them to use narrow roads. This situation is hazardous, particularly at this congested junction, and could result in fatal accidents.

Unfiltered cheating: 9 arrested for name game

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

“Accused used to send technicians to customers of Eureka Forbes to replace filters and cartridges with Surekha Forbes’ parts

Yelahanka police have arrested nine people for cheating customers of Eureka Forbes. It is alleged that the arrested people used to deceive customers by compelling them to buy unauthorised filters for their water purifiers.

Yelahanka police registered a first information report (FIR) against Santhosh, Balaji Uday Kumar, and Naresh Mahadevan based on a complaint lodged by Thomas Raju of Doddaballapura Main Road and Vignesh Ravi, Legal Officer, of Eureka Forbes Limited.

According to the FIR, the accused persons used to send technicians to Eureka Forbes customers to replace filters and cartridges of Eureka Forbes with Surekha Forbes filters and cartridges. It is alleged that technicians of Surekha Forbes approached Thomas Raju, a resident of Doddaballapur to service the water filter supplied by Eureka Forbes.

The technicians made Thomas send Rs 7,400 through UPI to Naresh Madhavan towards an annual maintenance contract. It is alleged that the accused did not issue a receipt for the fee to Thomas.

Meanwhile, in a press release, Eureka Forbes said that director of Surekha Forbes, Balaji Udayakumar, along with eight of his technicians, have been arrested by the Bengaluru Police on charges of deceiving customers under the guise of Eureka Forbes.

It is said that Balaji Udayakumar, along with his technicians Prakash Nayak, Santhosh Nayak, Rakshith Gowda, Rakesh Gowda, Harish, Ullas Nayak remain under police custody and the investigation is on.

A spokesperson from Eureka Forbes stated, “We take these recent developments very seriously, and our commitment to the well-being of our customers remains unwavering.

Buying and installing genuine aquaguard filters guarantees pure water to customers, and hence we will continue to educate and protect our customers against installing unauthorised filters from operators who cheat them and put their health at risk.”

Turf club bookie counters raided

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police initiated search operations at the bookie counters of the Bangalore Turf Club on Friday, seizing unaccounted for cash amounting to Rs 3.47 crore. Commencing on Friday afternoon and concluding around 1 am on Saturday, the operation was prompted by complaints of irregularities, including tax evasion, illegal betting, and selling of tickets at inflated prices. Subsequently, the CCB detained 60 bookies, filed an FIR at the High Grounds Police Station, and released them on station bail. The bookies received notices to appear before the CCB for questioning and provide documentation regarding accounted for cash. It’s worth noting that in December 2019, similar search operations yielded Rs 96 lakh in unaccounted cash, leading to the questioning of approximately 40 individuals at the turf club bookie counters.

Woman, lover held for her husband’s murder

A woman and her lover were apprehended by the HSR Layout police on Tuesday for the murder of her husband, 30-year-old Venkata Naik. Nandini Bai allegedly beat her husband to death with a rock after he discovered her with Nitish Kumar at their residence. They attempted to stage the death as an accident but were exposed after the post-mortem report confirmed the murder. Both Nandini and Nitish, originally from Andhra Pradesh, confessed to the crime during police questioning.

Diamond smugglers nabbed; booty seized

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) apprehended four individuals trying to transport diamonds to Dubai from Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The confiscated items, valued at Rs 13.8 crore, including diamonds and foreign currency, were found during checks at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad on January 10.

At first two men, aged 36 and 38 years from Chikkaballapur, were intercepted while attempting to smuggle the diamonds weighing 8,053 carats, valued at Rs 7.77 crore. The concealed diamonds were discovered in chocolate packets inside a suitcase they had checked in for an Indigo Airlines flight bound for Dubai.

The detained duo revealed to DRI officials that they had obtained lab-grown diamonds from Mumbai and were involved in an attempt to smuggle them. Additionally, they disclosed that their associates were engaged in similar illegal activities, smuggling diamonds and foreign currency from the Hyderabad Airport. **BMB**

‘Was not allowed to meet child for 5 Sundays’

The estranged husband of Suchana Seth, the Bengaluru-based AI start up CEO accused of killing her four-year-old child, on Saturday told Goa police she had not allowed him to meet their child for the past five Sundays.

Venkat Raman arrived at Calangute police station in the afternoon from Bengaluru to record his statement as part of the probe.

Seth allegedly smothered her son to death in a service apartment in Candolim in north Goa, packed his corpse in a bag and hailed a taxi to go back to Bengaluru but was arrested mid-way on January 8 in Chitradurga in Karnataka, as per police.

While Raman refused to speak to the media before going to meet the investigating officer (IO), a senior police official told PTI he was giving a detailed statement. Till afternoon, a fair part of his statement had been recorded, with Raman rejoining the IO post lunch, the official added. **PTI**

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THE SUNDAY READ

Out of syllabus

Schools illegally teaching syllabi they are not authorised to and other such 'class' violations

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMirror

With the rising demand for central board schools, several institutions in the city are operating illegally, teaching curricula affiliated with either the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or the Indian Council for Secondary Education (ICSE), despite being authorised only for state syllabi. The education department has now taken notice of such schools, instructing officials to identify these 'illegal' establishments and take appropriate action.

The latest circular issued by the department puts the onus on parents to check the school's authentication before admitting the children. With the 2023-24 academic year almost wrapping up, numerous parents are currently planning for the upcoming academic term. Despite the classes scheduled to commence in May/June, admissions have already commenced in several schools.

Circular instructions

The education department in the circular stressed that school administrations must notify parents and the department a year in advance if they intend to close a school mid-academic year. Failure to comply may result in criminal cases. The circular also mandates the publication of lists of schools teaching the Central Board syllabus unofficially under the jurisdiction of field education officers. Officials are tasked with ensuring no unauthorised schools operate, and failure to do so may lead to disciplinary action. Monthly reports on actions taken should be submitted by officers who need to verify reports and take necessary action during school visits. Any lapses should be reported to the respective range director. The overarching goal is to eliminate unofficial schools statewide, with responsibility falling on officials for schools teaching unauthorised curricula.

Types of violations

Education department officials have identified a variety of unauthorised schools operating in the city, each exhibiting distinct violations. Notably, schools authorised for the State syllabus were observed unofficially teaching the Central syllabus. Schools registered for the State syllabus are mandated to teach only it; those deviating by teaching other syllabi without proper affiliation have been warned.

> **Schools are required to purchase and use textbooks specified in the syllabus; teaching from unauthorised textbooks may result in action against them**
> –Education department official

Violations in this regard may lead to the withdrawal of registration/recognition. "Furthermore, numerous unauthorised schools were found teaching in a different medium without proper registration. For instance, some schools permitted for Kannada medium were found imparting education in English. Teaching in any unapproved medium is strictly prohibited, and schools violating this rule should be duly warned, with a 45-day grace period provided to obtain proper authorisation. Failure to comply within the stipulated time frame may result in the withdrawal of registration/recognition," said an education department official.

According to the official, another violation observed was the operation of schools with unauthorised additional sections. As per Sections 30 and 31 of the Karnataka Education Act-1983, schools are allowed one section per class, and those introducing additional sections without permission must rectify the situation within 45 days or face disciplinary action. Schools transferred without prior permission also face consequences. Transferring or handing over a school without obtaining proper permission violates established rules. Additionally, schools teaching both state and central curriculum are in violation. "The education department expressly prohibits schools integrating into the Central curriculum from continuing State curriculum teaching. Running both unofficially is strictly prohibited, with appropriate action taken against violators. Lastly, schools adopting textbooks without permission

Latest circular issued by education department puts the onus on parents to check authentication of schools they choose

face potential consequences. Schools are required to purchase and use textbooks specified in the syllabus, and teaching unauthorised textbooks may result in action against the school," said the official.

Mandatory procedures

The education department has stressed that private educational institutions must be registered and accredited to operate schools. Annually, the department invites applications for new schools and upgrades, granting registration to eligible institutions meeting specified criteria. Simultaneously, the granting of renewal process for existing schools is finalised.

Officials are required to disclose details of registered private schools, including names, mediums, curricula, and addresses, for the convenience of parents. The circular also highlights the responsibility of officials to enroll children from unauthorised schools into official ones. Parents are reminded that educational records from such schools may not be deemed authentic for further studies or employment.

Closure of unauthorised schools

The circular states, "The management should shut down unauthorised schools. After closure, officials must inspect the premises within a week and submit a report to the field education officer to ensure school closure. If unauthorised schools persist, officials must take mandatory steps to close them, filing complaints against the management board in the relevant police station."

Yelahanka tahsildar fined for sitting on khata plea

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The Karnataka Information Commission has slapped a fine of Rs 10,000 on Yelahanka Tahsildar for not issuing a certified khata even after requesting it through RTI.

After repeatedly being denied the issuance of a certified khata for the property purchased in 1995, Mohan Krishnamurthy filed an RTI for the khata but was denied at first appeal. At the second appeal, the Karnataka Information Commission slapped a fine on the Public Information Officer and Tahsildar, Arun Kumar Arolikar, under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act 2005. However, Mohan has yet to receive a certified copy of the khata.

Krishnamoorthy, a retired Indian Air Force officer, had purchased 20 guntas of land in Vaderahalli village, North Bengaluru, in 1995. The khata mutation for this land has been pending for 30 years with the office of Yelahanka Tahsildar. Mutation is being delayed despite three orders from the Karnataka High Court.

While awaiting the khata mutation, Mohan also filed an RTI request

The issuance of khata was denied for property purchased in 1995

for a certified copy of the land deed from the office of Yelahanka Tahsildar. That RTI request went unheeded, and after the first appeal with the PIO, Mohan filed an appeal with the Karnataka Information Commission.

During a recent hearing at the KIC, it was found that the Yelahanka Tahsildar withheld the information requested under RTI. Under the Right to Information Act, the State Information Commission has the power to impose a penalty on officials refusing to provide the information requested.

Krishnamurthy told BM that he has been running behind the issue for nearly 25 years. "My father purchased the land in 1995, and the sale deed was registered, but the khata was not issued in my name. In 2017, I filed a petition before the High Court. Further, I went for a writ appeal, and in 2023, HC directed the Bengaluru Urban DC to review and submit within 45 days. Later, a contempt of court case was filed against the DC, and finally, a favourable order was passed on August 4, 2023, asking the DC to mutate the khata and issue a certified copy. Further, I also filed an RTI, which was denied, following which I applied for the first appeal. At the second appeal, the KIC took action against the Tahsildar," he said

Art of tax collection

BBMP exceeds expectations in tax collection, aiming to meet their Rs 4,412 crore target as current fiscal year concludes

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has outdone itself in tax collection, showcasing an impressive achievement compared to the previous fiscal. The civic agency had amassed a staggering Rs 3,272.91 crore, surpassing its collection in the previous fiscal by a noteworthy Rs 532 crore. With the fiscal year concluding on March 31, 2024, officials are optimistic about reaching their target of Rs 4,412 crore.

The initial months of this fiscal year witnessed a sluggish start, with only Rs 1,225.99 crore collected in April 2023 compared to Rs 1,529.25 crore in April 2022. Officials attributed this slowdown to the Assembly elections, but the momentum picked up from May onward. In May 2023, Rs 554.11 crore was collected, surpassing the Rs 532.69 crore in May 2022. The real breakthrough came in June 2023, with a collection of Rs 465.91 crore, a remarkable leap from the Rs 145.77 crore in June 2022. This upward trend continued in July, with Rs 201.26 crore collected compared to Rs 129.16 crore in July 2022.

August 2023 saw a significant boost, with Rs 120.48 crore collected, surpassing the Rs 86.46 crore from August 2022. In September 2023, Rs 125.20 crore was collected, compared to Rs 79.80 crore in September 2022. October marked a surprising milestone as the BBMP collected Rs 226.70 crore, setting a new record compared to the meagre Rs 70.45 crore in October 2022. In November 2023, Rs 141.76 crore was collected, exceeding Rs 98.44 crore in 2022. December 2023 witnessed a remarkable collection of Rs 173.28 crore, a significant leap from the Rs 71.26 crore in December 2022. The trend continued in January 2024, with the first week yielding Rs 38.23 crore compared to Rs 5.83 crore in January 2023.

An official stated that the BBMP envisions reaching a monumental

The trend continued in January 2024, with the first week yielding Rs 38.23 crore

"Notices were issued to those with commercial establishments who were still remitting taxes designated for residential properties –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP

target of Rs 6,000 crore in 2025, setting ambitious goals for future financial achievements.

In fact, the collection of property taxes is a major source of BBMP's revenue. In 2021–22, the collection was Rs 3,033 crore, and this increased to Rs 3,758 crore in 2022–23. This increase in property tax collection was about 24 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

Officials said that one of the reasons for the increase in property tax collection is identifying those who were making false tax claims. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "Over the past two years, we have received data from BESCOM officials regarding individuals with commercial connections. We cross-referenced this information with our property tax records to ascertain whether the respective property owners were fulfilling their tax obligations for residential or commercial purposes. Notices were issued to those with commercial establishments who were still remitting taxes designated for residential properties."

BBMP officials highlighted that property taxes for residential purposes were relatively minimal compared to commercial taxes, which potentially led to the evasion of taxes through such means.

During the last financial year, the BBMP had taken up a study to identify properties where the owners were paying commercial rates to BESCOM and other state agencies but had declared residential property tax payments were undertaken. BBMP had identified 12,699 cases, and a penalty of Rs 134 crore was levied. "The property tax collection procedure in BBMP needs to be completely revamped. It is proposed to take up all self-assessment declarations by all major commercial buildings for a detailed verification. These SAS returns will be compared with the corresponding documents of other state agencies using the required software. This is expected to lead to a substantial increase in property tax collection," added an official.

Survey to check temple's road invasion

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district to depute the deputy director of land records and a technical team to submit a report on whether a temple there has encroached upon the road or whether the road was built around the temple.

The division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit were hearing a petition alleging that there was illegal encroachment of the road by Sri Sallapuradamma Temple, Hegganahalli Main Road, Sunkadakatte village, Bengaluru.

The road is said to have been blocked by the temple. After assessing the photograph, the High Court said the temple seemed to be in the middle of the road.

HC has directed the DC of Bengaluru Urban to depute a technical team to submit a report on whether a temple has encroached upon the road

On March 8, 2021, the High Court directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to depute an officer to visit the site and file a report.

In its recent order on Thursday, the High Court noted that the affidavit by the BBMP was "ambiguous, and an attempt was made to create some confusion."

"We are unable to comprehend the statement, which in a way indicates the situation that the road is laid around the temple. This report fails to show as to whether there is illegal encroachment and whether the temple has been standing there for ages," it said.

So to obtain a "clear report from an independent authority," the High Court directed a new survey and adjourned the hearing for February 9.

–PTI

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BREAKFAST TIME!

A trio of parrots peek into a tree cavity for food in Kalyan Nagar

The picture was clicked by BM reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

It's momentary joy: Road built for a day

Residents of Dodda Banaswadi Main Road complain about its wearing out day after being asphalted by contractors

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

For a long time, the residents of Dodda Banaswadi Main Road were waiting for the roads to be asphalted as they were tired of travelling on the bad road stretch. Their joy had no bounds when the contractors started laying the road. However, the joy was short-lived as the road started wearing out a day later.

A resident said, "We are deeply shocked by the poor quality of road construction. If these kinds of poor-quality roads have to be laid, then what is the use of a road that doesn't last long? In Bengaluru, we have seen how a single spell of rainfall is enough to expose the poor quality of roads. Now, look at this road that is getting exposed in a day, and one can wonder how long it can last." Others added that it is crucial for the BBMP to address this issue systematically.

Another resident said, "The poor quality of asphalt not only results in frequent potholes and road damages but also leads to increased maintenance costs for the civic authorities. BBMP should focus on using high-quality materials and enforcing stringent construction standards to ensure the longevity of road infrastructure in Bengaluru. The sentiment among residents is that the civic body needs to take immediate action to rectify these lapses and prioritise the delivery of durable road infrastructure." Residents call for a thorough examination aiming to identify the root causes of the recurring problems with road conditions and ensure accountability in construction practices.

"We are shocked by the poor quality of construction. We have seen how a single spell of rain exposes roads –a resident

Another resident mentioned, "The lack of durability in the recently constructed roads has raised concerns about the longevity of the road infrastructure. Now, as the road is technically laid, we don't know how many more years we have to wait before a new road is laid, and this road is already in shambles. You can imagine how we need to live with this bad stretch until the new road is laid, which may be many years away from now."

Hence, residents are demanding a comprehensive quality audit of the roads laid by the BBMP. They also demand a quality audit, stressing the necessity of transparent and accountable road infrastructure development to meet their expectations and enhance the overall livability of the city.

The lack of durability in the recently constructed roads has raised concerns

DID YOU KNOW?

Sri Dakshinamukha Nandi Tirtha Kalyani Kshetra is one of the oldest temples in Bengaluru. The temple is located opposite Kadu Malleswaram temple and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The uniqueness of the temple lies with Nandi facing south, also known as Dakshinamukha Nandi in Kannada. One can see a continuous stream of water flowing out of Nandi's mouth. This water automatically falls on Shivalinga and flows into a tank, which is in the middle of the temple. The source of the water remains unknown to date.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

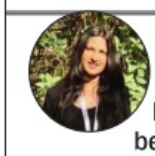
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

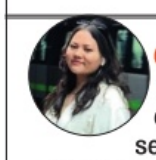
What role do traditional arts and crafts play in Bengaluru's modern society?



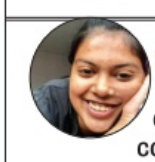
Surbhi, BM Reader
Traditional art and culture still hold a place in Bengaluru and have been a tourist attraction, especially for the student residents. These age-old artistic expressions showcase the city's rich heritage.

Vivek Pillay, BM Reader
I believe traditional arts and crafts have continued to be an integral part of modern society, contributing significantly to the preservation of art and culture. These crafts support local artisans and small businesses.

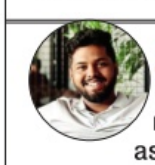
Riya, BM Reader
Bengaluru is home to small businesses that champion sustainable causes and make traditional arts and crafts easily accessible to people at lower costs. These enterprises play a role in preserving city's rich artistic heritage.



Cyreka Khatuwoda, BM Reader
Traditional crafts maintain their cultural significance and are often seamlessly incorporated into modern society. These age-old artistic expressions are not confined to the past; they also shape the city's contemporary identity.



Soumya, BM Reader
No matter how much a city evolves, traditional arts and crafts continue to hold cultural significance, contributing to the unique character of Bengaluru. These are the timeless expressions that bring a sense of authenticity.



Aditya Bhukata, BM Reader
While I haven't seen many things related to the local or traditional aspects of Bengaluru here, I recognise the city's potential to embrace and showcase its rich cultural heritage through traditional arts and crafts.

SPEAK TO US

How do you think Bengaluru can balance its rich cultural heritage with the demands of modern urban living?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Vitamin E works as an antioxidant, protecting cell membranes from damage due to free radicals

Sweet potato, pumpkin, carrots, and spinach are loaded with Vitamin A that helps regulate the immune system

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, January 14, 2024
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All you need to know about...

Pitfalls of over-optimism

Poor decision-making
Optimistic thinking has long been immortalised in self-help books as the road to joy, good health, and longevity; nevertheless, it may also lead to poor decision-making, with major consequences for people's financial well-being.

Cognitive abilities
Research from the University of Bath shows that excessive optimism is associated with lower cognitive skills such as verbal fluency, fluid reasoning, numerical reasoning, and memory. Whereas those high on cognitive ability tend to be both more realistic and pessimistic in their expectations about the future.

Forecast trouble
"Forecasting the future with accuracy is difficult and for that reason we night expect those with low cognitive ability to make more errors in judgments, both pessimistic and optimistic. But the results are clear: low cognitive ability leads to more self-flattering biases -- people essentially deluding themselves to a degree," said Dr Chris Dawson of the University's School of Management. "This points to the idea that whilst humans may be primed by evolution to expect the best, those high on cognitive ability are more able to override this automatic response when it comes to important decisions. Plans based on overly optimistic beliefs make for poor decisions and are bound to deliver worse outcomes than would realistic beliefs," he added.

Financial decision errors
Decisions on major financial issues such as employment, investments or savings, and any choice involving risk, were particularly prone to this effect and posed serious implications for individuals. "Unrealistically optimistic financial expectations can lead to excessive levels of consumption and debt, as well as insufficient savings," Dr Dawson said. —ANI

Sankranthi is the time for avarekalu. Here are some recipes for you to experiment with BEAN THERE?

AVAREKALU MASALA SAARU

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup Avarekalu/ Lima beans/Flat beans
- 2 chopped onions
- 1 chopped tomato
- 2 chopped potatoes
- ½ cup grated coconut
- 1 handful of coriander leaves
- 2 sprigs of curry leaves
- ¼ tsp mustard seeds
- 2 byadgi chili
- One small lemon size tamarind
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp coriander seeds
- 2 green chillies, chopped
- 1-inch ginger
- 2 garlic cloves
- Pink salt to taste

METHOD
- In a blender, add onion, tomatoes, grated coconut, tamarind, and coriander leaves. Continue blending until a smooth paste is achieved.
- In a pressure cooker, add avarekalu, cubed potatoes, the blended masala paste, and salt to taste. Add enough water to cover the ingredients. Close the lid and pressure cook for 2 whistles or until the avarekalu and potatoes are tender.
- Take mortar & pestle and add coriander seeds, green chillies, ginger and garlic and crush it.
- In a separate kadai, add mustard seeds and let them splutter.
- Add red chilies, curry leaves, and crushed paste. Sauté for a few minutes.
- Once the pressure cooker releases pressure, open the lid carefully.
- Pour the prepared tadka into the cooked saaru (mixture in the pressure cooker) and mix well.
- Garnish with coriander leaves if desired.
- Serve the avarekalu-potato saaru hot with rice, chapati, ragi mudde, idli, or dosa

AVAREKALU KOSAMBARI SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup sweet corn, steamed
- 1 cup avarekalu/lima beans/flat beans, boiled
- ¼ cup red carrot, grated
- ¼ cup cucumber, chopped
- ¼ tomato, chopped
- 1 green chili, chopped
- 1 tbsp coriander leaves, chopped
- ½ tbsp lemon juice
- Pink salt to taste

For Tadka
- Mustard seeds
- Curry leaves
- Urad dal
- A pinch of asafoetida / hing
- 1 tbsp white sesame seeds

METHOD
- In a large mixing bowl, add steamed sweet corn, boiled Avarekalu, grated red carrot, chopped cucumber, chopped tomato, finely chopped green chili, and finely chopped coriander leaves.
- Add lemon juice and salt to taste. Mix well to combine all the ingredients.
- In a kadai, add mustard seeds and let them splutter.
- Add curry leaves, urad dal, sesame seeds, and a pinch of asafoetida. Sauté until it turns golden brown.
- Pour the prepared tadka over the salad mixture.

AVAREKALU PAYASAM

INGREDIENTS
- 1/2 cup avarekalu/lima beans/flat beans, boiled
- 1/3 cup fresh coconut, grated
- 3 teaspoons poppy seeds
- 1/3 cup jaggery
- A pinch of salt
- 3 cloves cardamom (elaichi) pods/seeds
- 2 teaspoons almond butter
- 10 cashew nuts
- 5 almonds
- 10 raisins
- A pinch of saffron strand in hot water
- Rose water

METHOD
- In a blender, add grated coconut, poppy seeds, almond butter, cardamom and some water. Then grind into a thick paste. Set aside.
- Place a heavy-bottomed pan on low heat and add jaggery with a little water to dissolve it. Once dissolved, filter the jaggery syrup to remove impurities.
- Add the filtered syrup back to the pan, then add saffron, salt, the ground coconut paste and the boiled avarekalu.
- Boil the Payasam for 10-12 minutes, stirring continuously on a low flame.
- Meanwhile, in a separate pan, roast cashews, almonds and raisins
- Incorporate the roasted nuts and raisins into the Payasam.
- Add rose water or rose petals before serving.

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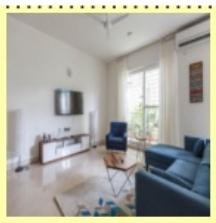

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'Neither I nor my son said he will contest from Mysuru'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said BJP MP Pratap Simha is scared and that is why he is saying that my son Yathindra will contest against him in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Mysuru-Kodagu constituency.

The chief minister said the decision to give tickets are based on the recommendations of MLAs, local leaders and party office bearers of the constituencies and not based on individual choice.

"Pratap Simha (Mysuru-Kodagu BJP MP) is scared, that's why he is saying that Yathindra will contest.

Neither I nor Yathindra have said that he (Yathindra) will contest the election," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

The chief minister said state Urban Development Minister Suresha B S (Byrathi) has been appointed as an observer for Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha constituency.

Suresha has submitted his report on the possible candidates based on which the decision will be taken, he explained.

The chief minister's reaction comes after Simha recently said Yathindra may be fielded from Mysuru.

The BJP MP had expressed his apprehension when his brother Vikram Simha was arrested in a tree felling case.

Accusing Siddaramaiah of framing his brother unnecessarily in a false case, he alleged that the CM is defaming him through this case to prepare the ground for his son Yathindra to contest from the Mysuru-Kodagu constituency against him. **PTI**

I am not contesting LS polls: Former PM Deve Gowda

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Saturday said he will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in view of his age. The 90-year-old JD(S) supremo said he will campaign for candidates in the elections.

"I am not contesting the elections. I am now 90. Whichever seats we get, wherever it is necessary, I will go there. I have some strength to talk and have memory power. With that I will campaign," Gowda said in a press conference.

Regarding JD(S) state president HD Kumaraswamy contesting the Lok Sabha elections, the former prime minister said no decision has been taken yet.

He said whatever Prime Minister Narendra Modi says will be followed.

Gowda praised Modi for taking 11-day intense penance before the installation of the Lord Ram idol in the sanctum sanctorum of the newly built Ram temple in Ayodhya.

He said Modi has done lots of 'Punya' (virtues), which is why he will perform the consecration of the Ram temple with the utmost devotion and spiritual discipline.

The former prime minister said he would attend the consecration with his wife Chennamma on January 22.

The JD(S) joined the BJP-led NDA in September last year after a meeting Kumaraswamy, a former Chief Minister and Deve Gowda's son, had with Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda in New Delhi.

Both parties have said they would fight the coming Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka together.

In the elections to the 224-member Karnataka Assembly in May last year, the JD(S) put up a poor show, winning only 19 seats. The Congress bagged 135 and the BJP 66. **PTI**

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I Divya Ramrakhiyani D/o Haresh Ramrakhiyani presently R/at Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name from Divya Ramrakhiani to Divya Ramrakhiyani for all future purposes

I, Vatkapuram Sathish R/o No 6, 202 2nd floor 24th E cross ejipura B'luru 560046 have changed my name to Sameera Vatkapuram for all purposes.

I Chandni Ramrakhiyani D/o Haresh Ramrakhiyani presently R/at Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name from Chandni Ramrakhiani to Chandni Ramrakhiyani for all future purposes

I Swathi Kolipaka D/o Laxmana Murthy Panthagani R/o #404, 5th Avenue, 5th Main, Teachers Colony Koramangala 1st Block, Bangalore-560034 have changed my name to Swathi Panthagani

I, SUMITHRA NARAYANASWAMY MUTHUSWAMY R/at No.01 Byrathi Bande Chikkagubbi Doddagubbi Bangalore- 562149 have changed my name to SUMITHRA PHILIP vide affidavit dated: 12/1/2024 Before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy Bangalore

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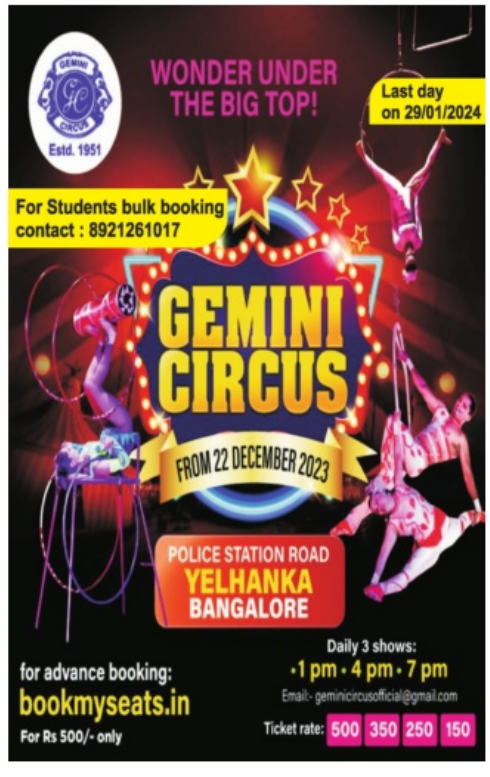

Police job 'will help representation, justice'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Two years ago they announced one percent reservation in police dept for trans people; I know three people who applied. We got to know there was a lot of confusion about the identity of who is a trans man or trans woman. Police demanded several documents like bank account details, and family history; because the people were from marginalised and vulnerable communities they didn't have access to institutions or were struggling to make ends meet. They visited the BBMP offices and other authorities; but finally the jobs didn't work out. Instances like this discourage people from applying," said Uma, trans woman, Jeeva (NGO).

Uma added that despite the trans community being full of people who have skills and talent, they are often discriminated against, and a job at the police department will help in representation and justice.

"People often presume that a trans person can only be a sex worker or beggar at a traffic signal, but if they get proper representation in mainstream jobs, people would see them in a different light. You can rarely see a trans person in any police station or working as a traffic cop. We don't want sympathy from the police, this is our right. The dept must take steps to encourage more trans people to apply," added Uma.

Trans activists claimed police have a history of being discriminative towards trans people and the first step the police dept should take is internal reform. Activists raised concerns about infrastructure in police stations: "Will they be making a separate washroom for trans people?"

Karnataka Sexual Minority Forum's state co-ordinator Mallu Kumbar said there is a need to constitute a special committee to draw up guidelines and oversee recruitment.

"The ADGP (recruitment) should make sure there are guidelines that clearly state who are trans men and women as there seems to be confusion while hiring which leads to people not getting the job. We had people who applied and cleared the physical and written exams in 2022, but were later informed that they don't fit the criteria," said Kumbar.

Kumbar further added that there should be strict guidelines that mention what is the punishment if there arises a case of internal harassment of a trans person at the police station.

"Before they start recruiting, there should be proper notification made accessible to everyone which clearly states what are the requirements regarding aspects like surgery and sex change operation. Also, important matters like separate washrooms for trans people and a committee that hears matters related to abuse and assault of trans police should be constituted," said Kumbar.

British envoy visit to PoK: India registers 'protest'
Terming the visit by British High Commissioner in Islamabad, Jane Marriott, to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as "highly objectionable", India has registered a 'strong protest' with the British High Commissioner in India

BangaloreMirror | 13
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Kharge likely to be head of INDIA bloc

Sources says consensus on Cong president's name; Nitish Kumar's name was proposed for convener's post

#NEW DELHI

Consensus emerged on the appointment of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as the chairperson of the opposition INDIA bloc while JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar's name was proposed for the convener's post, pending approval of parties absent at the alliance meeting on Saturday, according to sources.

Leaders of the INDIA bloc participated in the meeting via video conferencing where they discussed various aspects of the alliance like seat-sharing and preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, due in April-May. The sources said leaders of the Trinamool Congress, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Samajwadi Party did not attend the meeting.

According to the sources, a consensus emerged on Kharge's appointment as the chairperson of the bloc.

The leaders also decided to make Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar the convener of the alliance, but a final call will be taken after consulting the parties whose representatives were not present in the meeting, the sources said.

However, no announcement was made till this evening.

Many see the alliance chairperson and convener having an upper hand in the race for the prime ministerial candidate, but leaders of various parties maintained that the PM candidate of the INDIA bloc would be decided only after the elections.

"There was consensus on the name of Mallikarjun Kharge as chairperson of the INDIA bloc," CPI general secretary D Raja, who attended the meeting, told PTI.

In a post on X, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka D K Shivakumar said on Saturday evening that Kharge "has been named Chairperson of INDIA bloc, which shows dependability and trust in his leadership and vision".

"AICC President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is not just Karnataka's pride, he is the country's pride, and one of the most experienced leaders we have right now. Today, he has been named Chairperson of INDIA bloc, which shows dependability and trust in his leadership and vision.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP leader Raghav Chadha during a meeting at Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Saturday

"My best wishes to him, and I know that he will steer INDIA bloc with immense commitment and dedication, like he has led Congress Party," Shivakumar said.

NCP president Sharad Pawar who attended the meeting told reporters that Nitish Kumar's name was suggested for the post of convener, but the JD(U) leader was of the view that a team of party chiefs should be formed and that there is no need to appoint a convenor.

Sources added that talks are continuing between Congress chief Kharge and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee as also with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray have said that there is no dispute over the issue.

Sources said the alliance leaders would be meeting physically soon later in the month to chalk out further plans.

In the evening, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also met Kharge at his residence, where Rahul Gandhi was also present. AAP leader Raghav Chadha also attended the talks which related to seat-sharing between the two parties, the sources said.

Kharge later said in a post on X that the leaders of the INDIA Coordination Committee met online and had a fruitful discussion on the alliance. "Everyone is happy that the seat-sharing talks are progressing in a positive way. We also discussed about joint programs in the coming days by INDIA Parties. "I, along with Rahul Gandhi ji invited all INDIA Parties to join 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' at their convenience and use the opportunity to raise the social, political and economic issues plaguing common people of this country," the Congress chief said.

Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is beginning on Sunday from Imphal, Manipur.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who addressed a press conference on the Yatra in Imphal, refused to answer queries on the appointments in the INDIA alliance. **-PTI**

Prabha Atre: Hindustani vocalist who defied stereotype

#NEW DELHI

She wanted to sing till her last breath and she did. Almost. Prabha Atre, the woman who could have been lawyer, scientist or doctor but became a globally renowned Hindustani classical vocalist instead, died in her Pune home on Saturday hours before she was to leave for a concert in Mumbai. She was 92.

In an era when few women ventured into academia or public life, Atre studied two varying disciplines. And unlike many artistes born into families where music was a generations-old tradition or those who trained since they were children, Atre found melody somewhere along the way.

The vocalist from the Kirana Gharana defied many a stereotype, had no musical background and didn't follow tradition blindly. She would say quite simply that singing was better than dissecting frogs or defending criminals.

"I was studying science and then law and never thought in my wildest dream I would be a musician. My parents were into academics and my mother's illness brought music to our house. She used to learn the harmonium and I used to sit beside her. She left music but I continued," Atre told PTI in 2022.

Music, said the artiste who was dubbed the 'swara-yogini', was her destiny. Right up till the end, as she had promised herself. PTI

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Ruhaniyat®
SEEKING THE DIVINE

Friday, 26th January 2024
The Blissful World of Tamil Mystics - Sivasri Skandaprasad & Group
Through the Eyes of Kabir – Prahlad Singh Tipanya & Group
Secret Path of Javanese Masters to Peace - Ida Lala (Indonesia)
UBUNTU - The Spirit of Togetherness - Dumza Maswana & Volley Nchabeleng (South Africa)
Invoking the Feminine Force – Gondhal, Jagar, Bharud of Maharashtra: Nandesh Umap & Group
Qawwali – Warsi Brothers
Jayamahal Palace Lawns, Bengaluru | 6:00 pm
Conceived & Produced by Banyan Tree
Tickets on bookmyshow.com
For premier seats and Phone booking call on:
9152282553 / 9223231359

IN HINDI AT : PVR - INOX CINEMAS (DIRECTORS CUT, FORUM REX WALK, 9:40, 12:45, 7:05 p.m. | NEXUS FORUM MALL, KORMANGALA, 9:00, 12:05, 4:10 p.m. | ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR, 4:05, 10:00 p.m. | VAISHNAVI SAPPHIRE MALL, TUMKUR ROAD, 12:35, 6:45 p.m. | VEGA CITY MALL, 12:30, 9:55 p.m. | MSR REGALIA, 9:10, 3:30, 9:45 p.m. | PHOENIX MARKET CITY, K.R. PURAM, 9:50, 12:55, 7:10 p.m. | BHARTIYA CITY, 9:20, 10:15 p.m. | GT WORLD MALL | AURA PARK SQUARE, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 6:45 p.m. | SPIRIT MALL, 8:55, 7:10 p.m. | VR MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 9:40, 4:05, 9:50 p.m. | GLOBAL MALL, NAYANDALLI, 1:05, 10:20 p.m. | UPTOWN OMR MALL, 12:00, 6:45 p.m. | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY, 4:05, 10:15 p.m. | GARUDA MALL, 3:35, 10:00 p.m. | BROOKFIELD MALL, 4:25p.m. | LIDO, 7:05 p.m. | GALLERIA MALL, RMZ YELAHANKA, 12:20, 6:45 p.m. | SBR HORIZON, SEEGEHALLI, 12:30, 6:55 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS (ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 10:00, 7:20, 10:25 p.m. | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL, 10:00, 1:00, 10:00 p.m. | EAST ORION MALL, 12:55 p.m. | SHANTINIKETAN, 10:00, 1:00, 10:30 p.m. | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 10:00, 4:30, 10:30 p.m. | LULU MALL (TRD), 10:30, 1:30, 7:35 p.m. | LULU MALL (VIP), 10:00 a.m.) | GOPALAN CINEMAS (ARCADE MALL, 4:30, 10:00 p.m. | LEGACY MALL, 10:00, 3:00, 7:15 p.m. | SIGNATURE MALL, 10:30, 7:00 p.m. | INNOVATION MALL, 4:30, 10:00 p.m.) | INNOVATIVE (MARATHHALLI, 9:30, 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20 p.m.) | CINEPHILE (HSR LAYOUT, 10:30, 4:45, 7:40 p.m.) | ROCKLINE CINEMA MALL (JALAHALLI CROSS, 7:10, 10:15 p.m.) | CINE GALAXY (SURATKAL, 1:00 p.m.) | MOVIE TIME (DAVANGERE, 1:00 p.m.) | ABHINAY (K.G.ROAD, 10:30, 1:30 p.m.) | PVR - INOX CINEMAS (FIZA MALL, MANGALORE, 12:50, 7:10 p.m. | FORUM MALL, MYSORE, 3:45, 9:50 p.m. | GARUDA MALL, MYSORE, 9:10, 3:50 p.m. | CENTRAL, MANIPAL, 10:10 p.m. | SATYAM MALL, MYSORE, 8:55, 7:05 p.m. | S MALL, TUMKUR, 12:40, 7:25 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS (CITY CENTRE MALL, MANGALORE, 12:20, 3:55, 6:55 p.m.) | BHARATH CINEMAS (MANGALORE, 10:00, 1:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | MANIPAL, 10:15, 4:30, 7:45 p.m. | KUNDAPUR, 10:15, 7:00 p.m. | PUTTUR, 1:15, 4:15 p.m. | SHIMOGA, 1:30, 10:15 p.m.) | DRC CINEMAS (MYSORE, 7:05 p.m.) | BALAJI DELUXE THEATRE (MYSORE, 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 p.m.) | R R MULTIPLEX (BELLARY).

IN TAMIL AT : PVR - INOX CINEMAS (ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR, 1:00, 7:10 p.m. | VEGA CITY MALL, 3:30, 6:35 p.m. | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY, 9:00, 7:10 p.m. | GARUDA MALL, 12:25 p.m. | LIDO, 12:40, 10:00 p.m. | MANTRI MALL, 9:00, 12:30, 7:00 p.m. | CENTRAL MALL JP NAGAR, 12:30, 6:55 p.m. | FORUM NEIGHBOURHOOD MALL, 12:30, 6:55 p.m. | GARUDA, YELAHANKA, 3:45, 10:00 p.m.) | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS (ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 12:55 p.m. | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL, 7:30 p.m. | EAST ORION MALL, 6:50 p.m. | SHANTINIKETAN, 7:30 p.m. | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 5:45 p.m. | LULU MALL (TRD), 10:35 p.m. | LULU MALL (VIP), 7:30 p.m.) | GOPALAN CINEMAS (LEGACY MALL, 1:00 p.m. | GRAND MALL, 4:15, 9:45 p.m.) | MOVIE TIME (DAVANGERE, 4:30 p.m.) | SHARADA THEATRE (SP ROAD, 4:15, 9:45 p.m.) | PVR - INOX CINEMAS (GARUDA MALL, MYSORE, 10:30 p.m.) | DRC CINEMAS (MYSORE, 10:05 p.m.) | SUCHITRA PRABHATH (MANGALORE, 10:00, 7:00 p.m.).

IN TELUGU AT : MOVIE TIME (BELLARY, 1:00, 8:00 p.m.).

FARNAZ

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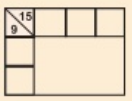
@BangaloreMirror

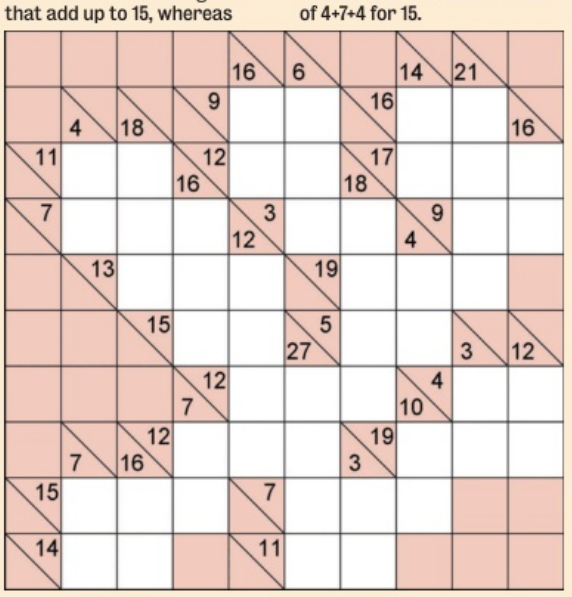
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

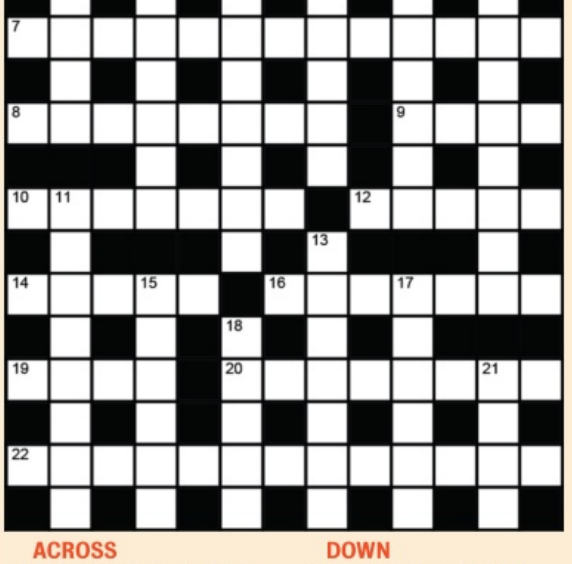


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Be very delicately poised? (4,2,1,6)
8 Illustrated, portrayed or symbolised (8)
9 Precious stones (4)
10 Italian port and resort close to French border (3,4)
12 Recumbent (5)
14 Numerical facts in short (5)
16 Cad or rotter (7)
19 This one's __ __ : I'll pay the bill? (2,2)
20 The food for the Gods (8)
22 Listening in on a conversation (13)

DOWN

1 American university (4)
2 More ungainly to look at (6)
3 Plans, schemes or orders? (7)
4 Den (5)
5 Dazed or stuporous (6)
6 Ricky Ponting's state (8)
11 Aerials or feelers (8)
13 Footwear for wet weather (3-4)
15 King Tut's home (6)
17 Limp or flexible (6)
18 ___ Hills: Scenic spot around 60 kms from Bangalore (5)
21 Charged particles (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS G

INGLNQ FE CZCQDJICQC, FM KIOK KICQC'E FQLMD FM PNEK ORLNK OMDKIFMV O INGOM ULCE.

Linemaro

You are so well-groomed

Mindchow

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn

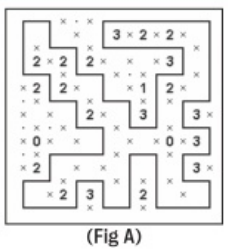
Joke of the day

Tonight, pause outside restaurants and briefly press a sign to the window: "He spiked your drink when you were in the toilet"

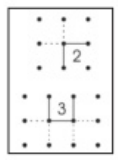
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

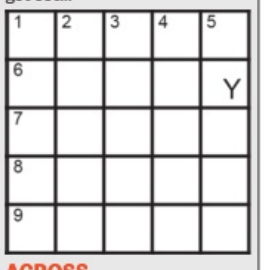
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

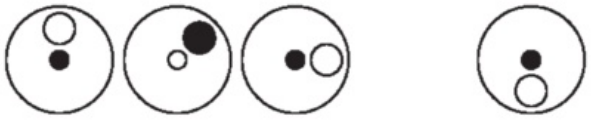
1 A girl; 6 Yes RR; 7 So sat; 8 Do ere; 9 Motes

DOWN

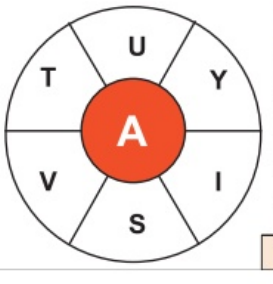
1 Tessa; 2 To err; 3 Mr Goo; 4 Aired; 5 SS Lye

Mensapuzzle

Draw the missing figure in the above sequence.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

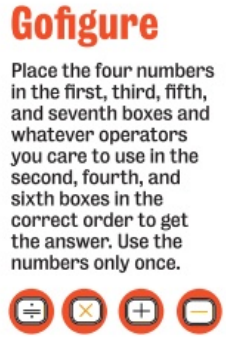
SudokuChallenge

	5			8			3	
			1	5		6	7	
	3	8		2	6			
3	7							
		9	8		5	7		
							1	3
			3	4		1	9	
	9	2		6	8			
	4			7			6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

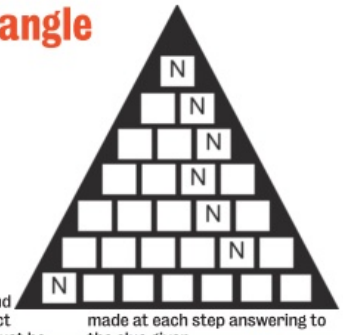
Differences: 1. Rafter is moved. 2. Pocket on golf bag is lower. 3. Man's head is tilted upward. 4. Football is moved. 5. Ladder railing is moved. 6. Label on box is moved.

Riddler

What distinguishes Set A from Set B?
A: one three four seven
B: two five six eight nine

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 A's alternative
3 Light brown
4 Huff and puff
5 Factory
6 Yielding
7 Spousal



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET STANLEY PARKER
CHIPS
"Try some Yummy-Tummy ice cream today! Side effects may include weight gain, high cholesterol, heart disease, and cavities."
GLASBERGEN 6-11
"I saw it on the Animal Channel. It's the only safe way to bathe a cat."
"The cream cheese grows mold and the mold grows hair!"
"I was going to start the High Protein Diet today, but I couldn't find a place that sells pork-filled doughnuts."
PIZZA
"It's our anniversary. Can you arrange the anchovies so it looks like they're kissing?"
BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
OKAY, HERE'S THE PLAN...
WREN WILL GO TO HER ROOM AND START CRYING, TO CREATE A DIVERSION.
WHEN MOM COMES TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG, YOU CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND HER, AND THEN SIGNAL ME WITH THIS FLAG.
WHEN I SEE THE SIGNAL, I'LL PUSH THIS LAWN CHAIR OVER, CRAWL THROUGH THE KITCHEN WINDOW, TIPTOE TO THE FREEZER, AND...
MOM? CAN WE EACH HAVE AN ICE POP?
SURE.
THEY WOULD'VE TASTED BETTER MY WAY.
FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
2-20
DALE ARDEN
DR. HANS ZARKOV
FLASH AND KING BARIN BATTLING TO THE DEATH?!
YOU'RE DONE FOR NOW, GORDON!
FEAR NOT, FAITHFUL READER - THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM.
KING BARIN!
WHA..?!
KSHH!
MATCH POINT, DARLING!
YOU JUST COST ME THE GAME. THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT.
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MY LIEGE...
BUT QUEEN AURA REQUESTS YOUR COUNSEL. DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE REGARDING TONIGHT'S RECEPTION.
YOU TELL THE QUEEN THAT THE VISITING DIGNITARIES ARE HERE REGARDING URGENT MATTERS OF STATE.
A ROYAL RECEPTION WOULD ONLY WASTE THEIR VALUABLE TIME.
IT SEEMS THE PALACE IS A HOUSE DIVIDED...
TO BE CONT'D

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the auspicious moon, which may bring you happiness, and chronic health issues are likely to be resolved. It is a good time to initiate postponed projects, and your destiny may favour you with gains in business. You may receive rewards for your hard work, and peaceful religious and work-related travel can be expected.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your moon is not negative, but you may feel dull and experience health issues. Losses may occur during this period, so it is advised not to invest in risky assets. Gains may turn into losses, and it's recommended to avoid investing in worthless objects. Refrain from getting involved in controversies, as it may have negative repercussions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love is in the air for your personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. Professional life may see improvements, and your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may exude confidence, reflecting in your work. You are in a winning position against opponents and enemies. Health issues may be stable, but in domestic life, avoid unnecessary arguments to maintain harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may experience happiness due to blessings from an auspicious planetary combination. Positive energy may enhance your prestige among those around you. Spend time studying intellectual subjects and plan for higher studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dullness in your nature, affecting your work. With the blessings of elders, you'll regain your speed. Pay extra attention to your child's health. You'll be in a winning position against enemies. Investors should be cautious, and stomach issues may bother you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may find happiness at work and make important decisions by the end of the day. Planning a short trip is favourable. Subordinates are likely to be cooperative, and good news regarding siblings' success may arrive. Expect success in legal matters, and students will be focused on achieving their targets.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your communication skills will benefit you professionally today. Being polite will help speed up your projects. Love birds will exchange views, strengthening their relationship foundation.

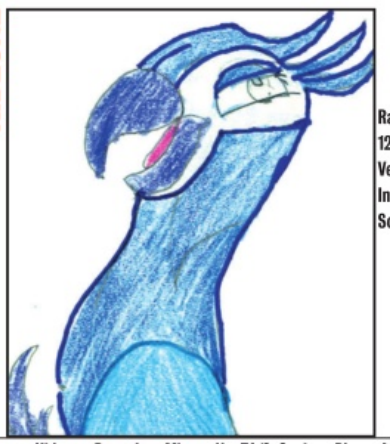
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may bring benefits, and your energy levels will be high. Hard work and enthusiasm may result in financial gains, and self-respect will protect you from negative influences.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and unhappy. Avoid harsh conversations with friends and family, and be patient while making important decisions. Follow your intuition and be patient in the face of challenges.

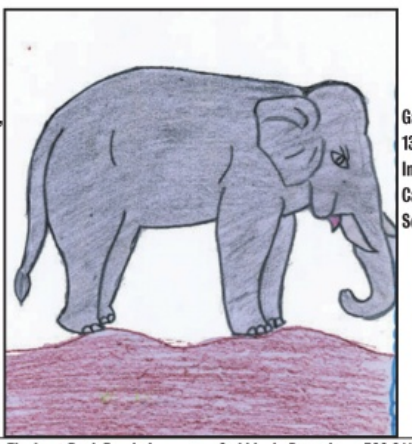
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
New sources of income may open up today. Past investments may yield profits, boosting your bank balance. Connecting with a social organisation will expand your network, and singles may find a soul mate for marriage.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, blessings from elders may boost your confidence. Trust your intuition before taking initiative at work. Intuition may lead to financial gains. Visiting a religious place with family is likely. Control arrogance for a harmonious domestic life, and students can expect good results with destiny's help.

KIDZONE



Raghuraman B, 12 Years, Venkat International School



Gagana S, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3=sqrt(x); sqrt(x)=3; x=9
4^2=8*sqrt(2); 8*3 = 8*sqrt(x);

RIDDLER
Set A contains words that each contain a number of letters whose partly (whether a number is even or odd) matches the number of letters in the word described. Set B contains words whose letter counts do not have the same parity as the numbers described by the words.

A	R	G	I
S	E	R	R
E	R	O	D
S	T	O	A
T	O	M	E

BULL'S EYE
stay, SUAVITY, vast, visa, vista

FAST FIVE

R	A	N	G	E
A	C	T	O	R
N	O	U	N	D
G	L	E	A	M
L	E	A	D	S

STRIKE OUT

L	I	M	I	T	E	D
O	I	E	E	W	E	L
B	A	L	A	N	C	E
B	A	T	H	A	R	E
N	K	I	O	S	K	E
I	C	E	N	I	S	A
C	A	A	E	T	S	
I	S	H	M	A	E	L
B	L	E	A	D	A	B
R	A	N	C	I	D	A
E	E	I	D	E	A	H
Y	E	M	E	N	E	R
B	K	O	M	O	I	
B	A	L	A	N	C	E
O	I	E	E	W	E	L
L	I	M	I	T	E	D

QUICK

Y	U	S	S	G	T	
H	A	N	G	B	Y	A
E	A	V	E	S	D	R
S	A	N	R	E	M	O
D	E	P	I	C	T	E
L	L	S	U	O	S	
E	S	I	T	Y	S	

MENSA PUZZLE
The large circle moves 45° clockwise and alternates white/black. The centre dot alternates black/white.

QUOTE UNCODE
Humour is everywhere, in that there's irony in just about anything a human does.

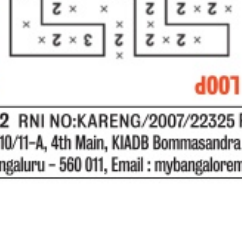
SUDOKU

6	5	1	7	8	9	2	3	4
9	2	4	1	5	3	6	7	8
7	3	8	4	2	6	9	5	1
3	7	6	2	1	4	5	8	9
4	1	9	8	3	5	7	2	6
2	8	5	6	9	7	4	1	3
8	6	7	3	4	2	1	9	5
1	9	2	5	6	8	3	4	7
5	4	3	9	7	1	8	6	2

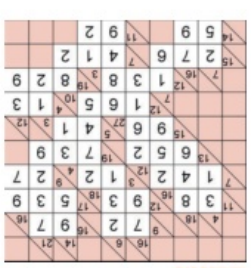
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Tan, Pant, Plant, Nuptial.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 6 − 3 + 8 = 20
Medium
3 − 3 + 4 x 3 = 12
Hard
9 − 6 / 1 + 6 = 9

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Majors dropped
Jonathan Majors dropped from Dennis Rodman movie with the working title '48 Hours In Vegas' after assault conviction

Tears for fears

Dia Mirza talks about insecurities she had as an actor when she was younger

Dia Mirza, who has completed two decades in the Hindi film industry, recently opened up about her journey in films. Speaking about her insecurities as an actor, Dia told Filmfare, "Oh yes. Absolutely! Especially when I was younger. The fear of losing out, the fear of rejection, the fear of ageism, and the loss of opportunity in an ageist industry."

When asked if she would want to change anything about her career, the actress quipped, "The fact is that I came into cinema completely untrained and unprepared. I learned everything on the job. While that has its own merits, I do recognise the invaluable contribution a good, solid education in acting makes to helping an individual define their creative voice and choices. Most of my choices in the first eight to ten years of my career were made out of fear. I was ill-equipped to find my voice or the authenticity that now defines all my choices." Dia was recently in Dhak Dhak also starring Ratna Pathak Shah, Fatima Sana Shaikh. — ETimes

Not her space

Actor Konkona Sensharma has been a part of the entertainment industry for a long time. She has impressed the audience with performances in films such as 'Wake Up Sid', 'Mr and Mrs Iyer', 'Luck by Chance', 'Lipstick Under My Burkha', and 'Talvar'. In an exclusive interview with ANI, she talked about commercial films and the kind of movies she likes to be part of.

"..I don't think commercial (cinema) because that's not my space. I don't relate to it myself because I didn't grow up watching it. So I don't have that kind of nostalgia or attachment or some childhood memory to it, either. I would like to be part of films like- Mira Nair's films. I feel at home in 'Monsoon Wedding' or 'Namesake' or like those kind of films one feels at home like in my mother's films."

Konkona's portrayal of Aisha Banerjee in the much-acclaimed film 'Wake Up Sid' is still cherished for her nuanced performance.

Konkona spoke about the overwhelming love she still receives for 'Wake Up Sid' .

"I am always amazed by the love I get for 'Wake Up Sid.' For Aisha Banerjee, for the 'Ektara' song, people are still sending me DMs. It's very touching..." she said. **— ANI**

Ordeal at airport

Actor Radhika Apte on Saturday took to Instagram and dropped a post claiming she and other passengers at an airport were locked in the aerobridge for hours after her flight was delayed. However, she did not name the city or the airlines. "Today morning I had flight at 8:30. It's 10:50 now and the flight has still not boarded. BUT the flight said we were boarding and put all the passengers in the aerobridge and LOCKED IT," she wrote.

She also shared pictures and videos from the airport. In one of the clips, some of the passengers can be seen talking to the security staff in the aerobridge.

Radhika shared that the passengers including elderly people and babies were locked in the aerobridge for more than an hour and they had no access to water and loo. "The passengers with small babies, elderly people have been locked in for over an hour. The security won't open the doors. The staff has ABSOLUTELY NO CLUE! No water no loo. Thanks for the fun ride," she added. **—ANI**

What women want

Unlike Hollywood, there is a dearth of female action films in Hindi cinema, says actor Shilpa Shetty who hopes the scenario would change in the coming future.

Shetty, who is set to star as a cop in Rohit Shetty's maiden OTT series "Indian Police Force", said even the audiences are ready to see women actors in action avatars on the screen.

"It is because of the budget that we don't make female action films here, and also, we are still in a male-dominated society. I would love to have a scenario where women in India can also portray characters like Gal Gadot and Scarlett Johansson do. I would love to do a film like, 'Long Kiss Goodnight'. Geena (Davis) was amazing. "These are films with emotions and power. I wish filmmakers would take this opportunity now as good content is being made. Whether it is for OTT or films, people are ready for this," the actor told PTI.

Shetty, 48, essays the role of police officer Tara Shetty in "Indian Police Force", dubbed as the next chapter in Rohit Shetty's cinematic cop universe. **—PTI**

Cruise up for Top Gun 3

Hollywood star Tom Cruise is working on 'Top Gun 3' with Paramount, despite his huge deal with a rival studio.

The 61-year-old actor, who is best known for starring as IMP agent Ethan Hunt in much-loved franchise 'Mission: Impossible' and Pete Mitchell in 'Top Gun', is developing a new sequel of the latter, reports Mirror.co.uk.

As per reports, Tom is working alongside Paramount to produce a new 'Top Gun' movie, despite having just signed a deal with Warner Brothers.

Just a few days ago, Tom and Warner Brothers' chief David Zaslav shook hands when they announced the 'Mission: Impossible' star was being brought in as a key producer for several franchise films with the iconic film studios As per Mirror.co.uk, despite him now working with rival studio Warner Brothers, Tom is working on a new 'Top Gun' movie with Paramount, with "a script being written" by Maverick writer Ehren Kruger.

The likes of Miles Teller and Glen Powell are all expected to return for the third instalment of the hit movie franchise. Although the news of a new 'Top Gun' sequel has only just emerged, 'The Hollywood Reporter' has said "the reality is this sequel has quietly been in development since late fall."

They also said that fans should not expect to see the new 'Top Gun' movie in the near future, because the legendary action-movie actor is currently working on an 8th 'Mission: Impossible movie', "which will keep him occupied until at least its release, currently set for May 2025."

This comes after Tom signed a deal to develop and produce theatrical films with Warner Bros. Discovery. The movies that he will work on will also star him, with the deal dubbed as a "strategic partnership". **— IANS**